



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: OWW-136

U.S. Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Murray:

Your correspondence to Ms. Stephanie N. Daigle, Associate Administrator of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, dated August 14, 2007, was forwarded to the Region 10 Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle, Washington for a response. Your letter requests that we address the issues outlined in Mr. Ken Reisinger's correspondence regarding his drinking water source. According to your letter his drinking water was contaminated and he has no water source.

I have carefully reviewed all of the attached correspondence to your letter. I have also spoken with Mr. Dave George, the Washington State Department of Ecology Project Manager for the site, as well as speaking to Mr. Reisinger on the afternoon of Friday September 7, 2007, to get a better idea of his concerns. We regret the frustration that Mr. Reisinger has had to experience in trying to resolve issues with groundwater contamination and his health concerns.

Mr. Reisinger's issues appear to cut across several EPA programs in addition to several state and local programs. The letter from his daughter Ms. Mai-Lee Reisinger, mentions the Pasco Sanitary landfill as a source of groundwater contamination, which comes under the authority of EPA's Superfund Cleanup Program. The Pasco Sanitary Landfill (PSL) site is located about 1.5 miles northeast of Pasco, Washington. The groundwater beneath and downgradient of PSL is contaminated with a variety of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The site is being managed by the Pasco Sanitary Landfill PLP Group under agreed and enforcement orders with the State of Washington. The lead agency for the cleanup is the Washington State Department of Ecology with EPA providing assistance on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Reisinger is on a private well, that is not regulated by the EPA. However, he continues to have his water tested on a quarterly basis and I understand that additional monitoring wells have been installed recently to test the water in the area. Mr. Dave George reviewed the latest groundwater sample results for Mr. Reisinger's well that he uses for domestic water on September 7, 2007. Mr. Reisinger's well continues to meet federal drinking water standards, but is above the Model Toxics Control Act standards and the corresponding clean up level for VOCs. The reason for this, is the State of Washington has set a more conservative standard than

the federal government. Both the Washington State Department of Ecology, the lead agency for this cleanup, and the Benton Franklin Health District have repeatedly asked Mr. Reisinger to discontinue his use of well water for domestic purposes and begin using city water or bottled water as a precaution. The Pasco Sanitary Landfill PLP group has had a standing offer to provide alternate sources of drinking water at no cost to him. There are six residences that are currently affected by VOCs in the groundwater and five of those residences are receiving water from the City of Pasco. Mr. Reisinger is the only one who continues to refuse the alternate sources of domestic water that have been offered to him.